

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02349 280705Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SSM-03

COME-00 OMB-01 AID-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 EB-08 /140 W

-----009955 280719Z /10

R 280551Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1545

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SA, US, OVIP, BTRA

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND TIME NEWSTOUR GROUP

1. CROWN PRINCE FAHD RECEIVED TIME NEWSTOUR GROUP ON MARCH 25 FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR. HE RECONFIRMED SAUDI POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH U.S. AND SAID THIS FRIENDSHIP WAS NOT ONE SHAKEABLE BY EVERY WIND. IN ANSWER TO CONFIDENTIAL

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QUESTION AS TO EFFECT ON SAUDI ARABIA IF F-15 SALE DOES NOT GO THROUGH. FAHD SAID IT WAS NOT USEFUL TO THINK ABOUT NEGATIVE THINGS AND THAT HE HAD FULL CONFIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT, PEOPLE, AND CONGRESS OF UNITED STATES WOULD SEE WISDOM OF SAUDI REQUEST AND WOULD APPROVE SALE. HE THEN SAID WITH A SMILE THAT, IF UNTHINKABLE DID COME ABOUT AND F-15 SALE WAS NOT APPROVED, HE WOULD GO TO U.S., APPEAL

TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND COMPLAIN ABOUT THEIR CONGRESS. GROUP, WHICH HAD RECEIVED NEWS DIGEST THAT MORNING OF BEGIN'S APPEAL TO AMERICAN PEOPLE OVER HEAD OF PRESIDENT, LAUGHED AND APPLAUDED.

2. ON PEACE FRONT, FAHD RECONFIRMED SAUDI POSITION THAT UN RESOLUTION 242 WAS BASIS FOR PEACE IN AREA AND THAT WITHDRAWAL WAS KEY TO ITS SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION. HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERYONE AGREE ON MEANING OF RESOLUTION. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ON JERUSALEM SHOULD REVERT TO PRE-1967

STATUS. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER SAUDI ARABIA THOUGHT PROSPECTS FOR PEACE WERE BETTER OR WORSE AS RESULT OF SADAT INITIATIVE, FAHD SAID SADAT INITIATIVE COULD PROVE TO HAVE BEEN THE VERY BEST THING THAT HAPPENED IN PURSUIT OF PEACE. BUT IF SADAT'S INITIATIVE IS PERMITTED TO FAIL, THEN ONLY GOD KNOWS WHAT THE RESULTS WOULD BE. ASKED WHAT HE WOULD DO TO GET PRECESS RESTARTED IF HE WERE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, FAHD SAID HE WOULD DEEM IT NECESSARY TO BE REALISTIC. HE WOULD TAKE POSITION THAT HE HAD HIS STATE BUT THAT THERE WERE PALESTINIANS WHO DID NOT HAVE STATE. HE WOULD DO JUSTICE TO THE PALESTINIANS AND TAKE RISK OF GIVING THEM A STATE.

3. FAHD WAS ASKED WHAT U.S. SHOULD DO NOW IN MIDDLE EAST. FAHD REPLIED THAT SUADI ARABIA WAS NOT ASKING U.S. TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKE SIDES IN ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE. SAG REALIZED THAT THERE IS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL AND SAG ALSO KNOWS THAT U.S. HAS STRONG INTERESTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE GULF AND THE REST OF THR ARAB WORLD. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT U.S. WAS ASTUTE AND WOULD CLEARLY SEE AND WEIGH ITS OWN INTERESTS. HE HOPED U.S. WOULD ACT WITH EQUITY AND JUSTICE IN AREA.

4. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF MOVING FROM DOLLAR FOR OIL PRICING, FAHD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME OPEC MEMBERS HAD THEIR OWN IDEAS ABOUT MOVING FROM DOLLAR. HE SAID THAT AS FAR AS SAUDI ARABIA WAS CONCERNED, IT HAD NO INTENTION OF MOVING FROM DOLLAR. SAG ONLY HOPES THAT DOLLAR WILL RECOVER ITS STRENGTH.

5. ASKED ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD EXPANSION OF OIL PRODUCTION IN 1980'S FADH SAID THAT IT WAS CON- STANT POLICY OF SAUDI ARABIA TO BE OF USE TO ITS FRIENDS, FOREMOST AMONG WHOM WAS U.S., SAUDI ARABIA WOULD DO ITS BEST TO HELP ON THE OIL FRONT, TOO.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
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TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, BTRA, SOPN, MASS, SA, US, (FAHD, CROWN PRINCE)
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